

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are all the claims pending in the application, new claims 13 and 14 having been added as indicated herein. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bruhn (U.S. Patent No.: 5,909,077) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art (Figures 6-10), hereinafter referred to as APA. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Bruhn in view of the APA and further in view of Kerlin et al. (U.S. Patent No.: 1,629,857), hereinafter referred to as Kerlin.

As a preliminary matter, figures 6-10 are objected to, for the reasons set forth on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant submits herewith a Submission of Drawings (figures 6-10), and respectfully requests that the Examiner approve the enclosed figures.

§ 103(a) Rejections (Bruhn / APA) - Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 for the reasons set forth on pages 3 and 4 of the Office Action. Applicant traverses these rejections at least for the following reasons.

With respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that neither Bruhn nor the APA, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests at least "a brush having three or more tapered contact portions," as recited in claim 1. That is, the Examiner alleges that contact portions 14 and 15 of Bruhn satisfy the above-quoted limitation of claim 1, however, Bruhn clearly does not disclose a brush having three or more contact portions, as evidenced by the figures of Bruhn as well as the fact that there are only two (2) protruding edges 14, 15 cited by the Examiner as allegedly satisfying the above-quoted limitation.

Further, with respect to independent claim 1, Applicant submits that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least “the contact portions of said brush are disposed at opposite edges of said brush in said pressing direction and at an intermediate portion between said opposite edges,” as recited in claim 1. That is, the protruding edges 14 and 15, which allegedly correspond to the claimed three or more contact portions are clearly not disposed at opposite edges of the brush, as described in claim 1. Moreover, there is clearly no contact portions at opposite edges of the brush and at an intermediate portion because there are not three or more contact portions, as discussed in the preceding paragraph. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the applied references.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 3, 5, 7, 9, and 11 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1.

§ 103(a) Rejections (Bruhn / APA / Kerlin) - Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12

The Examiner rejects claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 for the reasons set forth on pages 4-6 of the Office Action. Applicant traverses these rejections at least based on the following reasons.

With respect to independent claim 2, Applicant submits that the applied references do not teach or suggest at least that “the contact portions of said brush are disposed at opposite edges of said brush in said pressing direction,” as set forth in claim 2. That is, claim 2 is patentable for reasons similar to those set forth above for claim 1 as this same above-quoted limitation is recited in claim 1.

Further, with respect to claim 2, contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, Applicant submits that Kerlin does not teach or suggest at least that “the tip end portion of said lead wire is inserted

into said brush in said pressing direction so as to extend over two thirds or more of the length of said brush in said pressing direction,” as recited in claim 2. That is, nowhere does Kerlin even discuss a pressing direction in which press-molding occurs, therefore Applicant submits that Kerlin does not satisfy the above-quoted limitation at least because Kerlin does not show that a lead wire is inserted into the brush in a pressing direction. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references.

Applicant submits that dependent claims 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 2.

Finally, Applicant adds new claims 13 and 14, which correspond to claims 1 and 2, respectively, to round out the scope of protection solicited for the present invention. Applicant submits that new claims 13 and 14 are patentable for reasons similar to those set forth in claim 1 and 2.

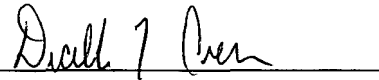
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/993,686

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q66753

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 25, 2003 (August 23, 2003 being a Saturday)



FIG. 6
 PRIOR ART

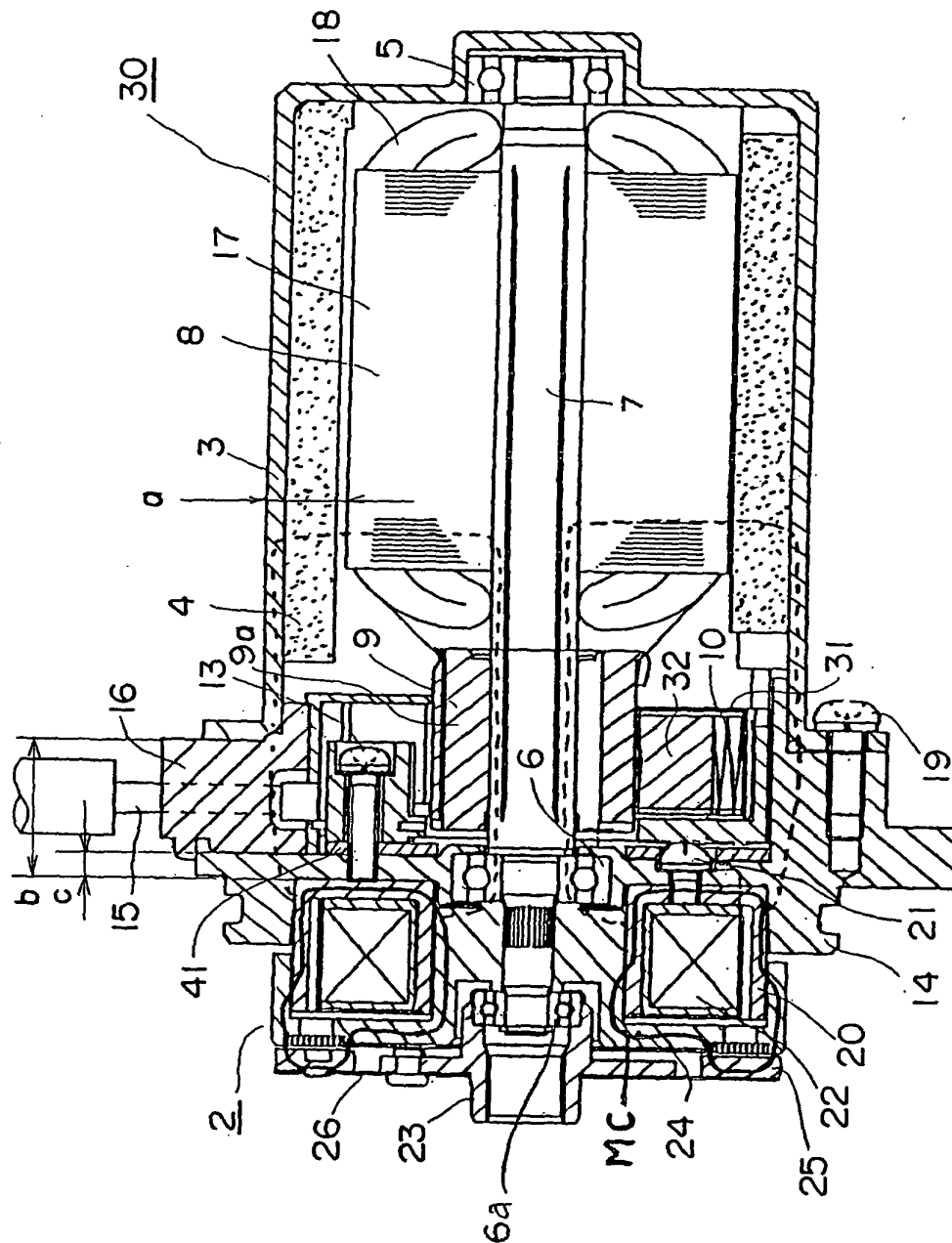




FIG. 7 PRIOR ART

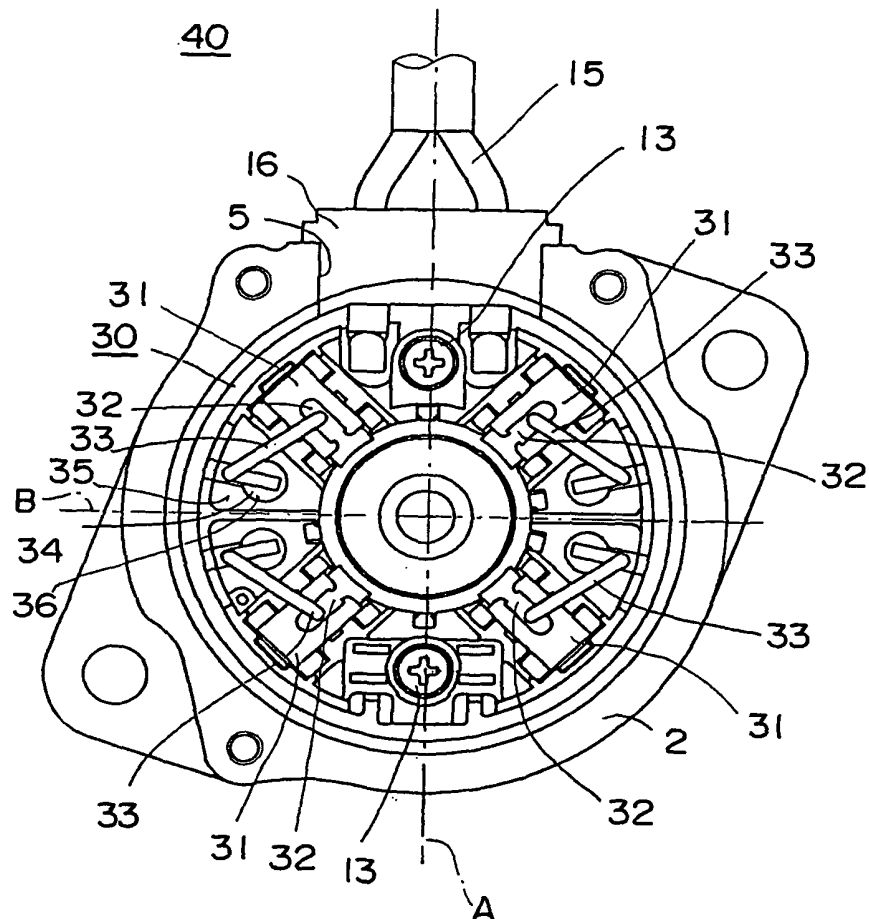




FIG. 8
PRIOR ART

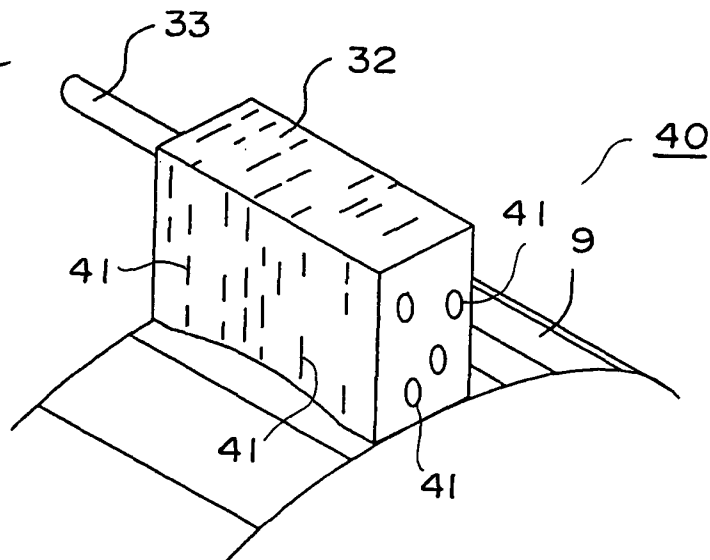


FIG. 9
PRIOR ART

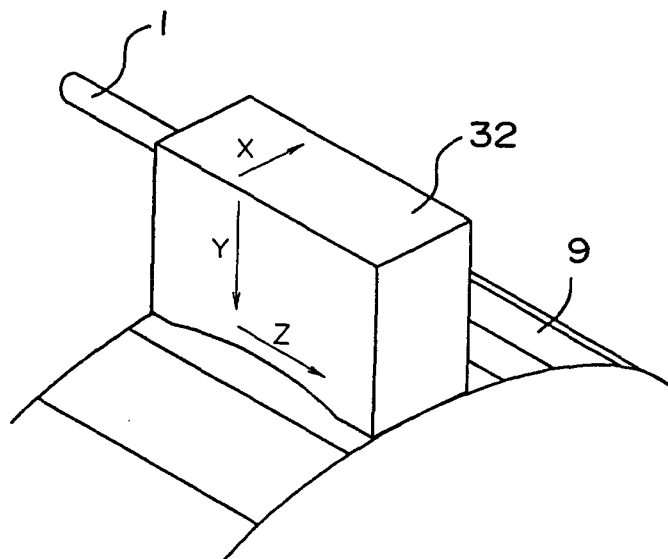




FIG. 10
PRIOR ART

